

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

The Senate was not in session today. It will next meet at 2 p.m. on Monday, October 15, 2007.

Committee Meetings

No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 30 public bills, H.R. 3791–3820; and 15 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 230–233; and H. Res. 722–723, 725–733 were introduced.

Pages H11489–91

Additional Cosponsors:

Pages H11491–92

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 2102, to maintain the free flow of information to the public by providing conditions for the federally compelled disclosure of information by certain persons connected with the news media, with an amendment (H. Rept. 110–370) and

H. Res. 724, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2095) to amend title 49, United States Code, to prevent railroad fatalities, injuries, and hazardous materials releases and to authorize the Federal Railroad Safety Administration (H. Rept. 110–371).

Page H11489

Chaplain: The prayer was offered by the guest Chaplain, His Holiness Karekin II, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians, Holy Etchmiadzin, Republic of Armenia.

Page H11397

Moment of Silence: The House observed a moment of silence in honor of Joseph David Waggoner, Jr., former Member of Congress.

Page H11414

Committee Elections: The House agreed to H. Res. 722, electing the following Members to serve on certain standing committees of the House of Representatives: Committee on Armed Services: Representative Lamborn. Committee on Foreign Affairs: Representative Blunt, to rank after Representative Chabot.

Page H11415

National Affordable Housing Trust Fund Act of 2007: The House passed H.R. 2895, to establish the National Affordable Housing Trust Fund in the Treasury of the United States to provide for the construction, rehabilitation, and preservation of decent, safe, and affordable housing for low-income families, by a yea-and-nay vote of 264 yeas to 148 nays, Roll No. 958.

Pages H11410–14, H11415–46

Rejected the Musgrave motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Financial Services with instructions to report the same back to the House promptly with amendments, by a recorded vote of 199 ayes to 218 noes, Roll No. 957.

Pages H11443–45

Pursuant to the rule, the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Financial Services now printed in the bill shall be considered as an original bill for the purpose of amendment.

Page H11410

Accepted:

Frank (MA) amendment (No. 2 printed in H. Rept. 110–369) that adds additional flexibility to permitted fund uses by allowing a grantee to use up to 10% of their funds for project operating accounts to cover shortfalls for projects assisted with trust fund dollars in order to facilitate affordability for families below the SSI income limit;

Pages H11431–32

Hastings (FL) amendment (No. 3 printed in H. Rept. 110–369) that amends the Affordable Housing Trust Fund homeownership counseling criteria to include flood or other disaster specific insurance in applicable regions;

Page H11432

Frank (MA) amendment (No. 4 printed in H. Rept. 110–369) that includes among the factors for consideration in selecting applicants to receive Trust Fund grant amounts a consideration of the extent to

which the design, construction, and operation of the housing reduces utility costs for residents;

Pages H11432–33

Frank (MA) amendment (No. 5 printed in H. Rept. 110–369) that allows grantees to give preference to public employees, including first responders and teachers, who cannot afford to live in high-cost areas; these workers have to meet the income eligibility requirements stated in the text of H.R. 2895;

Page H11433

Frank (MA) amendment (No. 6 printed in H. Rept. 110–369) that directs the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to establish an internet-based “Green Housing Clearinghouse” including best practices, technical recommendations and other informational material regarding green building techniques. Additionally, grantees would be required to self-certify how many of the total units they built with money from the national affordable housing trust fund were green;

Pages H11433–34

Frank (MA) amendment (No. 7 printed in H. Rept. 110–369) that provides that, for the purpose of increasing accountability, previous grant recipients applying for new grants must include in their applications progress reports for projects for which they used funds in the previous fiscal year; and

Page H11434

Frank (MA) manager’s amendment (No. 1 printed in H. Rept. 110–369) that establishes a state minimum allocation percentage, under which every state will receive at least one half of one percent (.5%) of the total funds available each year that are allocated to states, Indian Tribes, and insular areas. Allocations to all other states would be reduced pro rata to bring these states up to this .5% minimum. The amendment also provides that the local jurisdiction in each state that is slated to receive the largest amount by formula in such state would be entitled to receive such funds directly (notwithstanding the bill’s provision that jurisdictions entitled to their state in any year that nationwide funding is less than \$2 billion). The amendment includes a technical clarification to ensure that the mixed income limitation capping the number of units initially rented to extremely low income families at 50% applies to all of the units in a project (not just those units assisted by trust fund dollars). The amendment provides that the exception to the mixed income rule applies to all “elderly only” projects, not just those projects of 25 or fewer units (by a recorded vote of 418 ayes to 2 noes, Roll No. 955).

Pages H11441–42

Rejected:

Neugebauer amendment in the nature of a substitute (No. 8 printed in H. Rept. 110–369) that sought to establish a National Affordable Housing Grant Fund program within the HOME program,

which is currently administered through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (by a recorded vote of 163 ayes to 257 noes, Roll No. 956).

Pages H11434–41, H11442–43

Agreed that the Clerk be authorized to make technical and conforming changes to reflect the actions of the House.

Page H11446

H. Res. 720, the rule providing for consideration of the bill, was agreed to by a recorded vote of 224 ayes to 194 noes, Roll No. 952, after agreeing to order the previous question by a yea-and-nay vote of 223 yeas to 195 nays, Roll No. 951.

Pages H11410–13

Moment of Silence: The House observed a moment of silence in honor of George Sangmeister, former Member of Congress.

Page H11445

Tax Collection Responsibility Act of 2007: The House passed H.R. 3056, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the authority of the Internal Revenue Service to use private debt collection companies, to delay implementation of withholding taxes on government contractors, and to revise the tax rules on expatriation, by a recorded vote of 232 ayes to 173 noes, Roll No. 960.

Pages H11400–10, H11446–64

Rejected the Hulshof motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Ways and Means with instructions to report the same back to the House promptly with an amendment, by a yea-and-nay vote of 196 yeas to 212 nays, Roll No. 959.

Pages H11462–64

Pursuant to the rule, the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Ways and Means now printed in the bill, modified by the amendment printed in H. Rept. 110–368, shall be considered as adopted.

Page H11400

H. Res. 719, the rule providing for consideration of the bill, was agreed to by a yea-and-nay vote of 217 yeas to 198 nays, Roll No. 954, after agreeing to order the previous question by a yea-and-nay vote of 220 yeas to 198 nays, Roll No. 953.

Pages H11400, H11414–15

Calendar Wednesday: Agreed by unanimous consent to dispense with the Calendar Wednesday business of Wednesday, October 17.

Page H11466

Meeting Hour: Agreed by unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, October 12, and further, when the House adjourns on that day, it adjourn to meet at 12:30 p.m. on Monday, October 15 for morning hour debate.

Page H11466

Privileged Resolution: The House agreed to H. Res. 723, providing for the expenses of the select committee established under House Resolution 611.

Pages H11466–67

Quorum Calls—Votes: Five yea-and-nay votes and five recorded votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H11412–13, H11413, H11414, H11414–15, H11441–42, H11442–43, H11445, H11445–46, H11463–64, H11464. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 9:31 p.m.

Committee Meetings

PAKISTAN SECURITY CHALLENGES

Committee on Armed Services: Held a hearing on security involving Pakistan and policy implications for the Department of Defense. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

CHILD NEGLECT AND ABUSE

Committee on Education and Labor: Held a hearing on Cases of Child Neglect and Abuse at Private Residential Treatment Facilities. Testimony was heard from Greg Kutz, Managing Director, Forensic Adults and Special Investigations, GAO; and public witnesses.

PAUL WELLSTONE MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION EQUITY ACT OF 2007

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Health approved for full Committee action, as amended, the following bills: H.R. 1236, To make permanent the authority of the United States Postal Service to issue a special postage stamp to support breast cancer research; and H.R. 1424, Paul Wellstone Mental Health and Addiction Equity Act of 2007.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet approved for full Committee action the following: H.R. 3403, amended, 911 Modernization and Safety Act of 2007; and the Broadband Census of America Act of 2007.

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Ordered reported H. Res. 106, Affirmation of the United States Record on the Armenian Genocide Resolution.

NUCLEAR FORENSICS AND ATTRIBUTION ACT

Committee on Homeland Security: Subcommittee on Emerging Threats, Cybersecurity, and Science and Technology held a hearing on H.R. 2631, Nuclear Forensics and Attribution Act. Testimony was heard from Representative Schiff; Vayl Oxford, Director, Domestic Nuclear Detention Office, Department of

Homeland Security; Steven Aoki, Deputy Under Secretary, Counterterrorism, National Nuclear Security Administration, Department of Energy; Mike Evenson, Associate Director, Operations, Defense Threat Reduction Agency, Department of Defense; Vahid Majidi, Assistant Director, Weapons of Mass Destruction Directorate, FBI, Department of Justice; Andrew Grant, Acting Director for WMD Terrorism, Bureau of International Security and Nonproliferation, Department of State; and Carol Burns, Group Leader, Nuclear and Radiochemistry, Chemistry Division, Los Alamos National Laboratory.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on the Judiciary: Ordered reported the following bills: H.R. 3773, Responsibility Electronic Surveillance That is Overseen, Reviewed, and Effective Act of 2007; H.R. 3678, amended, Internet Tax Freedom Act of 2007; H.R. 3387, To update and improve the codification of title 46, United States Code; and H.R. 3564, Regulatory Improvement Act of 2007.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Natural Resources: Ordered reported the following bills: H.R. 53, amended, Virgin Islands National Park School Lease Act; H.R. 767, amended, Refuge Ecology Protection, Assistance, and Immediate Response Act; H.R. 830, amended, Denali National Park and Alaska Railroad Land Exchange Act of 2007; H.R. 3111, Port Chicago Naval Magazine National Memorial Enhancement Act of 2007; H.R. 783, amended, Mesa Verde National Park Boundary Expansion Act of 2007; H.R. 1528, amended, New England National Scenic Trail Designation Act; H.R. 2094, amended, To provide for certain administrative and support for the Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial Commission; H.R. 2197, Hopewell Culture National Historical Park Boundary Adjustment Act; H.R. 523, amended, Douglas County, Washington, PUD Conveyance Act; H.R. 1462, amended, Platte River Recovery Implementation Program and Pathfinder Modification Authorization Act; H.R. 29, To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to construct facilities to provide water for irrigation, municipal, domestic, military, and other uses from the Santa Margarita River, California; H.R. 135, Twenty-First Century Water Commission Act of 2007; and H.R. 664, Dana Point Desalination Project Authorization Act.

PUBLIC STADIUM FUNDING'S EFFECT ON INFRASTRUCTURE

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform: Subcommittee on Domestic Policy held a hearing on Professional Sport Stadiums: Do they Divert Taxpayer Funds from Public Infrastructure? Testimony